

Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Fiscal Note

HF 532 - Speed Limit (LSB 1737 HV)

Analyst: Jennifer Dean (Phone: (515) 281-7846) (jennifer.dean@legis.state.ia.us)

Fiscal Note Version — New

Description

House File 532 increases the speed limit from 65 to 70 miles per hour for vehicular traffic on interstate highways. The Bill allows a city with the approval of the Department of Transportation to establish a lower speed limit for such a highway located within the corporate limits of the city.

Assumptions

1. Charge, conviction, and sentencing patterns and trends will not change over the projection period.
2. Prisoner length of stay, revocation rates, and other corrections' practices and policies will not change over the projection period.
3. There is a six-month lag time from the effective date (July 1, 2003) of the proposed legislation to the date of first entry of affected offenders into the correctional system.
4. This analysis is based on information obtained from the Justice Data Warehouse, which includes statewide court information. Conviction and penalty information is based on FY 2002 data.
5. In FY 2002, there were 41,800 citations written for exceeding the 55 miles per hour (mph) speed limit. Speeding 6 to 10 mph over the posted speed limit of 55 mph resulted in 16,000 violations. This includes both interstates and blacktop roads.
6. The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau reported a 10.0% increase in fatalities among midwestern states following the increase speed limits. Regarding crimes associated with fatalities, drivers are seldom charged and the most frequent charge would be a simple misdemeanor.
7. The average court costs for a simple misdemeanor is \$15.
8. The average cost for the State Public Defender's Office for a simple misdemeanor is \$250.
9. The average collection rate on a simple misdemeanor is 61.0%.
10. The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau reported that 20.0% of the fatalities on Iowa interstates are due to drunk driving, and of those, 60.0% are the drunk drivers themselves.
11. There are approximately 31 fatalities each year on Iowa's interstates. If fatalities increase by 10.0%, the result would be approximately three more fatalities per year. If 20.0% were drunk-driving related, one additional drunk-driving fatality would occur and would likely be the drunk drivers themselves.
12. Vehicular Homicide Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) is a Class B felony. The marginal cost per day is \$12. The average prison stay for a Vehicular Homicide OWI is 111 months. The average length of stay for a Vehicular Homicide OWI re-admission is 16 months.
13. The average court costs for a Vehicular Homicide OWI is \$2,000.
14. The average cost for the State Public Defender's Office for a Vehicular Homicide OWI is \$3,500.
15. The average length of stay on probation for a Vehicular Homicide OWI is 25 months. The marginal cost per day is \$1.82.
16. The average length of stay on parole for a Vehicular Homicide OWI is 30 months. The marginal cost per day is \$1.82.

17. The average collection rate for a Vehicular Homicide OWI is 47.1%.
18. There are 782 miles of interstate highway with an estimated 450 speed limit signs in Iowa. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has two replacement options regarding speed limit signage. The DOT can install an overlay with the new speed limit or replace the existing sign with new signs.

Correctional Impact

The correctional impact for HF 532 is not expected to be significant. It is estimated that there are about 31 fatalities each year on Iowa interstates. If fatalities increased by 10.0%, there would be three additional fatalities per year. Regarding crimes associated with fatalities, drivers are seldom charged and the most frequent charge would be a simple misdemeanor.

If there was a 20.0% increase in drunk-driving related fatalities, it is estimated that one additional drunk-driving fatality would occur each year. However, it is likely the additional fatality would be the drunk drivers themselves.

Fiscal Impact

General Fund

The estimated fiscal impact for HF 532 is expected to be minimal. The cost for three additional simple misdemeanors due to a 10.0% increase in traffic fatalities is approximately \$800. The impact for one Vehicular Homicide OWI would be approximately \$50,000. However, it is likely the additional fatality would be the drunk driver.

General Fund/Local Governments/Victim's Compensation Fund

The impact on speeding violation revenues cannot be determined due to insufficient information. If additional law enforcement resources are devoted to speeding violations, additional fine revenues could be collected. However, speeding violations between 65 and 70 mph would no longer be a violation and could result in less overall revenue being collected.

Primary Road Fund

The estimated one-time cost for overlays is approximately \$45,000 and the one-time cost for new signs is approximately \$200,000. Funding would come from the Primary Road Fund. These costs include labor, materials, and equipment. The option selected would depend on the condition of the existing sign.

Sources

Department of Transportation
Department of Human Rights, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division
Judicial Branch
Department of Corrections
State Public Defender

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

March 17, 2003

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.
